

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Michael L. Sloan )  
 )  
Serial No. )  
 )  
Filed: )  
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For: Tactile-Encoded Combination Lock )  
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Sacramento, California 95814-4496

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop DD  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant submits, herewith, copies of the patents which it is aware, and which may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose to the Office, in accordance with 37 CFR Section 1.56:

**Patents:**

U.S. Patent No. 5,522,243  
U.S. Patent No. 3,536,017  
U.S. Patent No. 4,582,251  
U.S. Patent No. 5,775,252

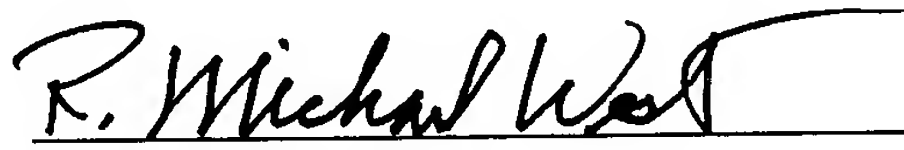
Attached are form PTO-1449 and a legible copy of each of the above-identified references.

In accordance with 37 CFR Section 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission that the information cited in this Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR Section 1.56(b).

In accordance with 37 CFR Section 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made, or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR Section 1.56(a) exists.

Applicant believes and submits, that his claimed invention is patentably distinct over the prior art known to him, including the above-discussed references.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Michael West", written over a horizontal line.

R. Michael West  
for Law Offices of R. Michael West

RMW/lc  
Enclosures

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

1

of

1

**Complete if Known**

Application Number

Filing Date

First Named Inventor

Michael L. Sloan

Art Unit

Examiner Name

Attorney Docket Number

10536

**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US- 5,522,243	06-04-96	Kusmiss	
		US- 3,536,017	10-27-70	Lucas	
		US- 5,775,252	07-07-98	Kilgore	
		US- 4,582,251	04-15-86	Odom, Jr. et al.	
		US-			
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**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				

Examiner  
Signature

Date

Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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